GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3531
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2001
ATTACKS ON PILGRIMS OF AMARNATH YATRA
T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there were attacks on pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the safety of pilgrims; and

(d) the details of compensation paid to the members of bereaved families during the said period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) & (b): The details of attacks on pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra during the last three years are as follows:-

Year	Pilgrims Killed	Pilgrims injured
1999	Nil	Nil
2000	21	26
2001	6	8

(c): The Security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra were strengthened this year in the light of past experience and inputs regarding the designs of the terrorists with the arrangements have been planned out after a series of high level meetings. The quantum of security forces deployed for Yatra Security this time was higher than last year. The functional and territorial jurisdictions and tasks of various forces and units as regards area domination and presence on the heights along the route, road opening parties (RoPs), escort duty, camp security, access control and manning of check posts, anti-sabotage checks etc. had been fixed in advance by the State Government. For the better coordination and planning of security arrangements for the Yatra 2001, an apex body was formed by State Government consisting of all members of the Core Group of UHQ at Srinagar with Chief Executive Officers, Shrine Board and concerned DIGs and Brigadiers as special invitees. Security coordination groups for the Yatra had also been constituted at lower levels.

Government has reviewed the security measures in consultation with the State Government with a view to strengthen the renewed security arrangements for the rest of the Amarnath Yatra Period.

(d): As per the existing rules, ex-gratia relief/compensation @ Rs. 1.00 lakhs each to the next of kin of those killed and Rs. 75,000/-, Rs. 5000/- and Rs. 1000/- for permanent disability, grievous injury and minor injury respectively is paid by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. This amount is reimbursed to the State Government under Security Related Expenditure grants from MHA.